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Arkansas.

Negro Charges He Was Ordered to Leave Crop

Charging that A. G. Jett, Memphis farm land owner, breached his contract, J. H. Coburn, negro farmer, filed suit in federal court yesterday for the collection of $8,000.

Coburn says that he contracted to use 100 acres of land near West Memphis, Ark., to pay $12.50 acre rental after the harvest of crops. He alleges that the contract called upon Mr. Jett to furnish $100 for five months.

The bill says that despite the contract, after the negro had 80 acres of cotton and 19 acres of corn cultivated he was ordered to leave the crops by W. A. Scruggs, an alleged agent for Mr. Jett, or else take up work as a day laborer.

W. Henry Fisher and L. B. Phillips, attorneys, filed the suit.

Memphis Commercial Appeal 11-1-27

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ANOTHER COTTON PICKER.

The cotton producing states will await with a great deal of interest the promised demonstration of the cotton-picking machine which the International Harvester Company claims to have perfected. Until the demonstrations have been completed, judgment will be suspended.

For "successful" cotton-picking machines have been coming and going for many years. Some of them have appeared to be wonderful devices, but in actual cotton field experience they were disappointing. The inventor of the Lowry round-bale cotton press brought to Albany, more than thirty years ago, a cotton picker that was expected to revolutionize the harvesting of the South's principal money crop. It picked cotton all right, and only a few mechanical flaws needed to be overcome to make the Lowry picker a complete success. But those few flaws were never corrected, and this particular device went the way of many another.

Commenting on the announcement that the "successful picker" is with us again, the Dawson News says that "a machine that can be operated by two men and do as much work in one day as one man could perform in fifteen days is a labor saving development such as has been introduced in many lines in the last two or three generations. No doubt Southern negroes will bewail the loss of their jobs, and, certainly, the plantation will lose one of its most picturesque features that has survived from the days of slavery until now. Negroes are employed almost exclusively in picking cotton. However, this labor saving machine cannot be regarded as anything but a forward step. It may create a new difficulty for a time, but eventually labor will find other employment. That has been the case every time a labor saving machine was introduced."

Making "a picker that will pick" has been the baffling problem of inventors and manufacturers for a long time. Perhaps the problem at last has been solved. If it has, we soon shall know what manner of contrivance is to take the place of human fingers in Southern cotton fields.

Labor Conditions

TENANT LABOR MUST BE KEPT, IS BELIEF

Speakers Voice Opinions in Conference With Hoover on Work of Rehabilitation

MONROE, LA., June 6 (AP)—That the tenant labor that has been employed on the plantations of the state must be kept on the plantations, was the opinion voiced by many speakers at the all day conference held here today by Secretary Hoover and J. L. Feiser, vice-chairman of the national Red Cross. Just how this is to be done was not definitely developed, but it was suggested that public work such as road construction, building of levees and other development by state and nation could be utilized to tide over those in financial difficulties so that their families may continue to live on the plantations and that they may return to their accustomed labors in normal times.

Mr. Hoover stressed the aid that is to be expected through the Louisiana credit corporation. This has been organized with a capitalization totaling $1,400,000 and as the intermediate credit bank is to rediscount four to one, giving the credit corporation a six million dollar working capital, the secretary stated that he believed this would go far to solve the needed financing of the situation.

That the state and nation should launch extensive public works problems of roads, bridges, levees and similar construction, was generally approved as in this way, it was shown, many persons will find work who are likely to be unable to get in a crop this year.

State Secretary of Agriculture and Immigration Harry D. Wilson, urged the planting of money crops and especially soy beans and similar crops and stated that there is plenty of time to get crops even after July 1.

Among the speakers were H. C. Couch, flood director of Arkansas, L. O. Crosby, flood director of Mississippi and Colonel W. H. Sullivan, chairman of the Louisiana rehabilitation board.

The special train on which the Hoover party arrived in Monroe, soon after midnight Tuesday night, left this city tonight for Alexandria.

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SLAVE DRIVER FACES TRIAL IN MISSISSIPPI

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Jan. 19—Much interest in this section is manifested in the trial of W. W. Blythe white planter, of Lake Comorant, Miss., on a charge of having violated the peonage act, which will be held before Mrs. [illegible] Davis, U. S. commissioner. Following his arrest Blythe was released on $1,000 bond, requiring his appearance in court.

Blythe was arrested on a warrant sworn out by D. A. Rochelle of Sledge, well known planter. He is charged with holding a colored woman, Mrs. Viola Neal, and her children without her consent. It is alleged that Rochelle contracted with Mrs. Neal and her family to move to his plantation and went to the Blythe plantation to move her and that Blythe refused to let her leave. Andrew Neal, husband of the woman, escaped during the night and gave out information against the planter.

Peonage. (Mississippi)